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| |  | | --- | | [Agenda - March 17, 2015](http://portal.clubrunner.ca/1882/Stories/agenda-march-17-2015)  *Posted by Robert G. Nath on Mar 12, 2015* | | **12 Noon - Call to Order**  **12:20 pm - Program Begins**  Welcome Guests and Visiting Rotarians - Sergeant At Arms  **12:40 pm - Speaker**  **1:15 pm - Adjournment** | |  | |  | |

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| |  | | --- | | [Announcements - March 10, 2015](http://portal.clubrunner.ca/1882/Stories/announcements-march-10-2015)  *Posted by Eva Sereghy on Mar 12, 2015* | | |  | | --- | | **Patrick Smaldore** encouraged attendance at the McLean Citizens Association meeting on March 11 on Fairfax County’s proposed FY 2016 Budget.  **Bob Jansen** announced now is the time to consider submitting proposals for spring service projects. He will also be in need of volunteers for McLean Day on May 16.  **Paul Sawtell** reminded members of the St. Paddy’s Day dinner at The Old Brogue on March 18.  **John McEvilly** presented a check of $2000 to Indego Africa, a project championed by Michael Arietti.  **Karen Yelick**, Indego Africa’s CEO, accepted the award and thanked the McLean Rotary Foundation for its support.  **Michael Arietti** encouraged members to come to the District Conference March 26-29 in Cambridge, MD. |     **Bob Rosenbaum** took orders for American Legion’s last fruit sale of the season. | |  | |  | |

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| |  | | --- | | [Program - March 10, 2015](http://portal.clubrunner.ca/1882/Stories/program-march-10-2015)  *Posted by Eva Sereghy on Mar 12, 2015* | | |  | | --- | | **Michael Arietti** introduced **Karen Yelick**, Chief Executive Officer of Indego Africa, a nonprofit charity and social enterprise in Rwanda. Indego Africa supports women in Rwanda through economic empowerment and education. Michael Arrieti, former U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda, serves on the Board of Advisers to this organization. He noted that Indego Africa is devoted to helping women overcome the many challenges they face in rebuilding their lives in a country devastated by genocide in 1994.  Ms. Yelick showed a video that highlighted Indego Africa’s programs and social impact. The organization creates opportunities for Rwandan women to develop as entrepreneurs, leaders, change makers, and community developers. Currently, Indego Africa partners with 22 cooperatives in Rwanda involving over 800 female artisans. It provides more than 300 classes, and in 2014 established a Leadership Academy for advanced business training. The Indego Africa model is both economic and educational. Economically, it helps bring artisanal products produced by the women to global export markets. J. Crew, Anthropologie, and Eileen Fisher are among the stores that have placed orders for these products.  The educational component uses an interactive, business school approach, with a focus also on literacy and health. Almost all profits from sales, donations, and grants are used to fund the education and training programs, including the Leadership Academy, which provides more advanced training without charge. Women come from all over Rwanda to attend. A major goal is to improve the quality of life and to build the next generation of female leaders in Rwanda. The program also collaborates with health organizations, such as Vision for Health, to provide needed services for participants. Indego Africa has offices in Kigali, Rwanda and New York City. |   In 2008, the income women obtained from their participation in the cooperatives went toward basic necessities such as food and shelter. As sales increase, the women are now also able to use their income for aspirational goals, including education of their children, buying land and animals, etc.  For more information about the program and to order products on line, see the website at indegoafrica.org | |  | |  | |

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